

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: Feb. 13, 2015

For More Information, Contact:
Dave Glatt
Environmental Health Section
North Dakota Department of Health

Phone: 701.328.5150 E-mail: DGlatt@nd.gov

Update on Blacktail Brine Release in Williams County

BISMARCK, N.D. –The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH), in conjunction with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), continues to monitor the cleanup of the produced water (brine) and oil release in Williams County that was reported on Jan. 7, 2015, by Summit Midstream (Summit). An estimated 70,000 barrels of produced water and oil were released in the incident.

Summit has recovered over 150,000 barrels of contaminated water, which includes a mixture of snow and ice melt water, water flowing in the creek, groundwater, produced water and 90 to 130 barrels of oil. Summit has constructed barriers to collect contaminated groundwater and prevent it from reaching the creek. Pumping operations on the creek continue, as does monitoring of Blacktail Creek, Little Muddy Creek, the Missouri River and groundwater in the vicinity of the leak. Additional subsurface evaluations will be conducted to identify the extent of the groundwater contamination. Current test results reveal that concentrations of chloride in Little Muddy Creek have dropped to levels below the state water quality standard, while concentrations in Blacktail Creek continue to exceed the standard. Residual oil was observed on Blacktail Creek, but has not been observed on Little Muddy Creek.

The Department of Health continues to work with the North Dakota Oil and Gas Division, North Dakota Game and Fish, and other federal partners to monitor cleanup, assess the impacts, and determine a cause of the release. For more information, contact Dave Glatt, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.5150.

-30-

Please note: To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Department of Health Press Room at www.nddohpressroom.gov.

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ndhealth or twitter at twitter.com/nddoh

600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 301, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0200
Phone: 701.328.2372 Fax: 701.328.4727 E-mail: health@nd.gov